



## Tyonek, call with Standifer

**Jim Woods** to: Jamey Stoddard, Katherine Brown, Keith Cohon,  
Tami Fordham

03/04/2012 02:30 PM

Cc: Kate Kelly, Sally Thomas, Michelle Pirzadeh

Notes from phone conversation with Frank Standifer, President of Tyonek on Friday

Frank was really glad I called him directly to discuss NVT Council's concerns and next steps to coordinate better communication. I explained the fact sheet will be helpful moving forward. I also explained the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining an effective consultation plan that should be ready for Tyonek Council review by the end of March as planned.

NVT primary concerns Frank shared were more immediate to their community, health of their people, natural resources, and water quality/quantity and largely on salmon. I expected he would want to talk about Cook Inlet as a whole but his conversation was mainly focused on the proposed mine. Here is a list from my notes.

- Consultation, I explained G2G consultation at the executive level would need to only take place when there is an action or at a decision in the process. Presently we are not at that point in regards to the proposed mine. Frank understood and agreed. Frank did however ask if I would visit NVT in person, as the tribal representative from Dennis's office.
- Draft MOU, To be ready for NVT review by the end of the month, as planned. I explained the MOU improve coordination and communications between EPA and NVT. Frank was positive about this.
- MOU completion, Once the MOU is ready to be executed by EPA and NVT Frank requests signing be with Dennis present, face to face.
- Needed Resources, Frank explained NVT lacks capacity and resources to meaningfully participate as the planning of the mine, decisions and permitting as everything moves forward. The tribe lacks technical expertise to understand and engage in a meaningful way. Frank believes the State will not take into account the NVT concerns and will be left out of the process.
- EIS, Since the 1990's the tribe feels they been left out of the NEPA process and they don't have confidence in the Army Corp of Engineers as the lead agency.
- Salmon Fishery, Frank states that the proposed coal mine will destroy well over 11 miles of salmon spawning and rearing habitat. Salmon is vital the NVT subsistence and survival year round. He stressed the mine will wipe out.
- Water Quality/Quantity, Frank explained two proposed settling ponds for the mine would contaminate ground and surface water. He sighted that many of the people at NVT still drink from the river. He states that proposed mine, at a depth of up to 300 feet would deplete all surface, river and water table.
- Air Quality and Human Health, NVT is concerned with coal transport and the AQ effects the community.
- Salmon Resource, NVT stresses the need to realistically assess salmon habitat, stock assessment and to determine abundance, now before any mining takes place. NVT wants this information to compare to the future. Again Frank is not confident with ACE.

In closing he was encouraged to have a couple next steps and looks forward to the draft MOU and Fact Sheet. Hope this helps with the NVT perspective.

-----Jim Woods/R10/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Frank Standifer <f.standifer@hotmail.com>

From: Jim Woods/R10/USEPA/US

Date: 03/02/2012 04:11PM

Cc: Jamey Stoddard/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Katherine Brown/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Keith Cohon/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: Tyonek

Frank,

It was a pleasure speaking to you again today. I'm glad we had time to discuss you and your Council's concerns and most importantly some next steps as we work to better coordinate communication.

As mentioned EPA is preparing a Fact Sheet outlining EPA's roles and responsibilities and is nearly complete. The draft is being reviewed now and should be final very soon, and I'm confident a concise fact sheet will prove to be helpful moving forward. I also want to reiterate the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining an effective consultation plan that should be ready for Tyonek Council review by the end of March as planned. You had mentioned Tyonek may have an existing MOU with the Army Corps of Engineers. If that is the case it may be helpful if you could share that document with my office for reference.

On a side note I also want to mention EPA staff (Jamey Stoddered and Katherine Brown) remain committed and available for technical and programmatic discussions with NVT environmental program staff (Jessica) and consultants (Rob).

Again, Thanks for your time and lets keep directly in touch.

~Jim

*Jim Woods  
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206/553-1234*

-----Frank Standifer <[f.standifer@hotmail.com](mailto:f.standifer@hotmail.com)> wrote: -----

To: Jim Woods/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, <[robrosey@gmail.com](mailto:robrosey@gmail.com)>, heather kendall m <[kendall@narf.org](mailto:kendall@narf.org)>, Randy N Rose Standifer <[rnrtTyonek@hotmail.com](mailto:rnrtTyonek@hotmail.com)>  
From: Frank Standifer <[f.standifer@hotmail.com](mailto:f.standifer@hotmail.com)>  
Date: 02/21/2012 12:04PM  
Subject: (Untitled)

Hello jim this is frank our council which consists of 9 elected tribal officials would like to meet with your group as a government to government basis we greatly need your help dealing with the proposed pac rim coal development project which if given a permit would remove 11 miles of salmon bearing streams and dig 350 feet below the water table AND DUMP 7 MILLION GALONS OF CONTAMINATED WATER INTO CHUIT RIVER AN POSIBLE KILL ALL THE SALMON THANKS FRANK NVT PRES

**President of The Native Village of Tyonek**

**Frank Standifer**

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